

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH

---

TERRY L. JOHNSON,	)	<b>ORDER DENYING MOTION &amp;</b>
	)	<b>MEMORANDUM DECISION</b>
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	Case No. 2:12-CV-955 CW
v.	)	
	)	District Judge Clark Waddoups
MARK SHURTLEFF et al.,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

---

Plaintiff, Terry L. Johnson, filed a *pro se* prisoner civil rights complaint.<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff now moves for appointed counsel.

Plaintiff has no constitutional right to counsel.<sup>2</sup> However, the Court may in its discretion appoint counsel for indigent inmates.<sup>3</sup> "The burden is upon the applicant to convince the court that there is sufficient merit to his claim to warrant the appointment of counsel."<sup>4</sup>

When deciding whether to appoint counsel, the district court should consider a variety of factors, "including 'the merits of the litigant's claims, the nature of the factual issues raised in the claims, the litigant's ability to present his claims, and the complexity of the legal issues raised by the claims.'"<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>See 42 U.S.C.S. § 1983 (2013).

<sup>2</sup>See *Carper v. Deland*, 54 F.3d 613, 616 (10th Cir. 1995); *Bee v. Utah State Prison*, 823 F.2d 397, 399 (10th Cir. 1987).

<sup>3</sup>See 28 U.S.C.S. § 1915(e)(1) (2013); *Carper*, 54 F.3d at 617; *Williams v. Meese*, 926 F.2d 994, 996 (10th Cir. 1991).

<sup>4</sup>*McCarthy v. Weinberg*, 753 F.2d 836, 838 (10th Cir. 1985).

<sup>5</sup>*Rucks v. Boergermann*, 57 F.3d 978, 979 (10th Cir. 1995) (quoting *Williams*, 926 F.2d at 996); accord *McCarthy*, 753 F.2d at 838-39.

Considering the above factors, the Court concludes here that, at this time, Plaintiff's claims may not be colorable, the issues in this case are not complex, and Plaintiff is not at this time too incapacitated or unable to adequately function in pursuing this matter. Thus, the Court denies for now Plaintiff's motion for appointed counsel.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion for appointed counsel is DENIED<sup>6</sup>; however, if, after the case develops further, it appears that counsel may be needed or of specific help, the Court will ask an attorney to appear pro bono on Plaintiff's behalf.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion to remand to state court is DENIED as moot.<sup>7</sup> Plaintiff's later filing expresses an intention to proceed in this Court.<sup>8</sup>

DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2013.

BY THE COURT:



JUDGE CLARK WADDOUPS  
United States District Court

---

<sup>6</sup>(See Docket Entry # 5.)

<sup>7</sup>(See Docket Entry # 11.)

<sup>8</sup>(See Docket Entry # 13.)